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and the Bishop succeeded in obtaining permission from the Attah or King of Idda (the Egara country), for a missionary establishment to be formed there : arrangements were also made for a school and station at Lukoja. The expedition arrived at the mouth of the river, on the 18th October, without the loss of a man, and the officers and men in good health and spirits.

3. *New Explorations in Australia.* Extract from the 'Register' of Adelaide, South Australia, Sept. 17th, 1864.

Communicated by F. S. DUTTON, Esq., F.R.G.S.

THE great work of exploration, in which South Australia during the last twenty years has taken so prominent a part, is now about to be carried on with fresh energy. Mr. Stuart's discoveries are to be extended within the colony by Major Warburton, and beyond the colony by Mr. A. Ball. Major Warburton's expedition, which is being fitted out by the Government, in accordance with resolutions passed by both Houses of Parliament, is in the first place intended for the examination of the country beyond Mount Margaret. It is proposed to proceed to the northeastward of that point, in order to ascertain whether or not there is any truth in the report as to the existence of a large river flowing into Lake Eyre; and when that part of the colony has been examined, it is intended to explore to the westward with the view of connecting the interior of "No Man's Land" and the adjacent country with either Fowler's Bay or Denial Bay, on the coast. These are to be the general objects of the expedition, and it is expected that they will be accomplished within four months. Full instructions, however, with regard to the conduct of the undertaking will be laid before Parliament as early as possible.

The other expedition to which we have referred is to be fitted out by private enterprise. The friends of Mr. A. Ball, whose scheme was laid before the public last year, are persevering in their endeavours to collect sufficient funds for the equipment of his party, and there is every prospect of their being successful. Should this be the case, Mr. Ball will start as early as possible. His plan is to proceed almost in a direct line from Mount Margaret to Shark's Bay on the western coast. He would thus cross the only extensive portion of the continent which yet remains unexplored. The eastern side of Central Australia is now well known, and from south to north the country has been opened by various explorers. There remains, then, only the unexplored region to the westward, and it is this which Mr. Ball now proposes to examine. Hitherto it has remained unnoticed, chiefly from the circumstance that explorers have devoted all their energies to the task of finding a route to the northern coast. Leichhardt was the only one who at an early date began to consider the practicability of crossing the continent from east to west—from Moreton Bay to Shark's Bay; but he perished without accomplishing this task, and one-half of the country which he intended to explore still remains completely unknown. A few years ago it was proposed in Victoria that this work should be renewed, and there was a talk of sending the Burke and Wills expedition to the westward instead of to the northward. The proposition, however, was abandoned, and the idea of reaching the western coast from Central Australia was given up.

The present is a favourable time for reviving this matter. The fact that a Government expedition is about to explore the country recently known as "No Man's Land" is a strong reason in favour of this further exploration to the westward. The explorers who undertake the larger work will have something to fall back upon in case they should meet with difficulties, either from the presence of large numbers of natives or from want of water. The knowledge that Major Warburton and his party were in the rear would be a source of en-

couragement to any one engaged in the arduous task of opening a route to the western coast. It is not in a spirit of rivalry or opposition, then, that the second expedition is proposed, but as an extension of the undertaking projected by the Government. They want an exploration of unknown territory within South Australia, and Mr. Ball is desirous of connecting that territory with the western coast. Both these enterprises are important, and the one may be made to assist the other.

The honour of performing the only great feat of Australian exploration which which yet remains to be achieved ought to belong to this colony. The unknown country which it is proposed to examine lies adjacent to our own territory, and may be entered by a route which Stuart opened in the course of his first remarkable expedition—a route which he believed would have led him into a well-grassed and well-watered region, but which he and his one companion had to abandon from their being utterly destitute of supplies. Thus, the door which leads into this unknown region has already been opened, and it is probable that the first explorer who enters will find a very favourable country before him. But it is not only from what Mr. Stuart saw that we are justified in forming a favourable opinion of the country to the westward. We published some information a short time ago from Mr. Larnach, a gentleman from Western Australia, relative to a scheme for connecting the country near the Great Bight on the south coast with the very point on the western coast which Mr. Ball now proposes to reach. Mr. Larnach, who had been inland a considerable distance from the Great Bight, had judged from information received from natives and from other sources that an exploration from coast to coast would be of easy accomplishment. So fully was he convinced of this that he made an offer to the Western Australian Government on behalf of himself and others for taking up a large area of land on condition that when the party had succeeded in driving sheep from the one coast to the other they should be allowed certain pre-emptive rights over a portion of the land included in their leases. This offer is at the present moment under consideration, the Local Government having been obliged to refer it to the Imperial authorities on account of such matters not being provided for by the land regulations of the colony. Supposing, then, that Mr. Larnach's scheme should be approved of, his party will, at a very early date, start for the western coast. They believe, from what the natives have told them and from what they have seen of the country round the Bight, that there is a good pastoral region inland. All this is favourable to the supposition that Mr. Ball's expedition would be successful. If there is good country to the westward, he would inevitably meet with it by crossing from Mount Margaret; and even if the Western Australian pioneers were to be striking out at the same time for their proposed settlement on the opposite coast, the two expeditions would in no respect nullify each other's usefulness.

4. *Notes on the New Settlement of Somerset, near Cape York.* By
Sir GEORGE BOWEN, Governor of Queensland.

Communicated through the COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR GEORGE BOWEN, in a despatch to Mr. Cardwell, dated October 4th, 1864, gives the following particulars relating to the founding of the settlement on Albany Island, the preparatory surveys for which have been recorded in previous communications published in the Society's 'Proceedings':—*

H.M.S. *Salamander*, Commander the Hon. J. Carnegie, returned to Moreton Bay on the 19th September, bringing the news of the successful foundation of

* See vol. viii. p. 114.